

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 NEA-06 ADS-00 SS-15 OMB-01 L-03

EB-08 DLOS-09 AGRE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05

XMB-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /080 W

-----061955 162233Z /70

R 151819Z MAY 79

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7658

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL MONTERREY

AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA

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FOR BILL LONG, OES

EO 12065 N/A

TAGS: SENV, EAGR, MX

SUBJECT: ZACATECAS STATE INTEREST IN GUAYULE

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ZACATECAS STATE WHO ARE PLANNING A MAJOR CULTIVATION AND EXPLOITATION OF GUAYULE. US ASSISTANCE IN THIS EFFORT IS SOUGHT. IT APPEARS TO BE A SERIOUS INITIATIVE, TO WHICH WE SHOULD RESPOND AS POSITIVELY AS POSSIBLE. ACTION REQUESTED: USG COMMENTS AND DESIGNATION OF EXPERTS TO HOLD DIRECT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ZACATECAS PEOPLE. END SUMMARY.

2. DELEGATION OF SIX PERSONS REPRESENTING GOVERNOR OF ZACATECAS AND INCLUDING A REP OF CONAZA RECENTLY CALLED ON S&T COUNSELOR TO EXPRESS INTEREST OF THAT STATE IN CULTIVATING GUAYULE AND TO SEEK COOPERATION FROM THE US.

3. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THE ACTUAL OPERATIONS WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN THE HANDS OF A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION WHICH WOULD INCLUDE MANY PROMINENT STATE OFFICIALS. A PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF THE INITIATIVE WOULD BE TO CREATE JOBS.

4. HEAD OF THE DELEGATION WAS ING. ENRIQUE PADILLA AVILA, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF INDUSTRIAL AND MINING PROMOTION FOR THE STATE.

5. WE MENTIONED THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED BILATERAL ARID-LAND MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT, AND SUGGESTED THAT THE GROUP ALSO CONTACT THE PROGRAMMING AND BUDGET SECRETARIAT, THE MEXICAN NATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR THAT EFFORT. WE AGREED TO PASS THE INFORMATION ALONG TO THE US COORDINATOR, HOWEVER, IN THE HOPE WE COULD IDENTIFY INTERESTED US EXPERTS WHO MIGHT ENTER INTO DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE ZACATECAS GROUP.

6. PADILLA PROMISED TO WRITE TO CONFIRM THE DISCUSSIONS, WHICH HE DID BY LETTER DATED MAY 3. LETTERHEAD IS "COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR THE ARID ZONES OF ZACATECAS STATE". EMBASSY TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

7. QUOTE: WITH ALL DUE ATTENTION, PERMIT US TO CONFIRM TO YOU WHAT WAS PRESENTED VERBALLY IN THE MEETING HELD WITH YOU CONCERNING THE PROPOSAL OF GENERAL FERNANDO PAMANES ESCOBEDO, CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNOR FOR THE STATE OF ZACATECAS, TO DEVELOP DESERT ZONES OF THE STATE IN VARIOUS CULTIVATIONS.

8. QUOTE: WE EMPHASIZE THE ELEMENTS WHICH THE STATE CAN COUNT ON AND WHICH SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR OUR PROPOSAL, AND WHICH ARE DETAILED BELOW:

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(A) A STATE LAW FOR AGRICULTURAL DIVISIONS WHICH PERMITS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PLANTATIONS (COLONIAS) WITH PERSONS CAPABLE OF SPECIALIZED LABOR, SUCH AS DESERT CULTIVATIONS.

(B) THE DISPOSITION OF VAST EXTENSIONS OF LAND EXCEEDING A MILLION HECTARES, WHICH CAN BE UTILIZED IN PLANTATIONS OF VARIOUS VARIETIES OF GUAYULE, SUCH AS 'LA CANDELILLA, PALMA REAL, CANA AGRIA, ETC.

(C) OF THE EXISTENCE OF AN ENORMOUS QUANTITY OF WILD GUAYULE PLANTS, ACCORDING TO ESTIMATES MADE BY A STUDY OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR ARID ZONES.

(D) HYDROGRAPHIC STUDY OF THE ZONE WITH VERY POSITIVE RESULTS, VERIFIED WITH OPTIMAL APPRAISALS OF TEN BORINGS.

(E) PAVED ROADS AND DIRT ROADS, TRANSITABLE AT ALL TIMES.

(F) ELECTRIFICATION TO A LARGE EXTENT.

9. QUOTE: AS YOU CAN UNDERSTAND, ALL THESE ELEMENTS

HAVE BEEN CONJUGATED TO INITIATE, STARTING FROM FEASIBILITY STUDIES WHICH ALREADY EXIST, THE REGENERATION OF GUAYULE AND OTHER DESERTIC PLANTS.

10. QUOTE: PURPOSES. ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSES IS TO ESTABLISH THREE EXPERIMENTAL CENTERS, CEDROS, MAHOMA, IN SAN TIBURCIO Y ESTACION, WITH A DONATION OF 1500 HECTARES TO THE PLANTATION SOCIETY, WHOSE JURIDICAL STRUCTURE IS BEING ARRANGED WITH THE CORRESPONDING AUTHORITIES.

11. QUOTE: CARRY OUT THE FOLLOWING WORKS:

(A) CLEARING, RAKING AND PREPARATION OF LAND FOR CULTILIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VATION.

(B) DRILL WELLS ACCORDING TO TECHNICAL ADVICE TO PROVIDE COMPLIMENTARY IRRIGATION, ADEQUATE FOR THE DESERT CULTIVATIONS.

(C) INITIATE THE PROGRAM TO REGENERATE AND INDUSTRIALIZE THE GUAYULE PLANT SO AS TO COMPLETE 6000 HECTARES THIS YEAR.

(D) THE INSTALLATION OF AN INDUSTRIAL PROCESSING PILOT

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EB-08 DLOS-09 AGRE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05

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(E) THE INSTALLATION OF A TIRE FACTORY, PREFERABLY FOR AGRICULTURAL AND AUTOMOTIVE USES.

12. QUOTE: TO ACCOMPLISH THE ABOVE, THE APPLICATION OF THE EXPERIENCE OBTAINED IN YOUR COUNTRY, THROUGH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND STUDIES CONDUCTED BY THE UNIVERSITIES, IS REQUIRED.

13. QUOTE: TO ESTABLISH IN JURIDICAL FORM THE ENTITIES WHICH PERMIT ASSOCIATION AND CONTRACTING BEGINNING FROM WHAT WAS SPECIFIED IN THE AGREEMENT SIGNED BY HIS EXCELLENCY JAMES E. CARTER, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA AND LIC. JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO, CONSTITUTIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES.

14. QUOTE: IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ZACATECAS AND THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR ARID ZONES WILL APPLY TO THE SECRETARIAT OF AGRICULTURE AND TO THE SECRETARIAT OF PROGRAMMING AND BUDGET AND, IN A GIVEN CASE, TO THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY IN OUR COUNTRY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.
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15. QUOTE: AS WE EXPLAINED TO YOU, TO INITIATE THIS AMBITIOUS PROGRAM WE UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR COOPERATION FROM ABROAD, AND TO APPLY TO YOU, WE HOPE FOR YOUR RECOGNITION AND SYMPATHY TO THIS PROPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ZACATECAS, BECAUSE TO ACCOMPLISH IT WE COULD ACHIEVE NATIONAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN NATURAL RUBBER OBTAINED FROM THE GUAYULE, AND WE CONSIDER THAT THE LANDS ARE UNSURPASSABLE FOR THE RENOVATION OF THIS PLANT IN A PERMANENT MANNER AND FOR IT TO BE INDUSTRIALIZED, IN PLACE OF THE WILD PLANT.

16. QUOTE: ALSO, IT SHOULD BE EASILY POSSIBLE TO EXPORT PART OF THE PRODUCTION, WHICH YOUR VALUABLE ASSISTANCE COULD HELP PLACE US IN CONTACT WITH THE AUTHORITIES OF YOUR COUNTRY, BOTH OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE ENTITIES, WHICH MIGHT HAVE AN INTEREST IN COLLABORATING FOR THIS PURPOSE.

17. QUOTE: WE HAVE CONTACTED THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT FOR THE SAME PURPOSE, GIVEN THE EXPERIENCE OF THAT COUNTRY IN TRICKLE IRRIGATION AND OTHER TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF DESERTIC AGRICULTURE.

18. QUOTE: BUT WE ALSO KNOW OF THE RELEVANT ACHIEVEMENTS OBTAINED BY YOUR COUNTRY AND WHICH ARE IMMEDIATELY APPLICABLE IN THE NORTHERN ZONE OF ZACATECAS STATE, WHICH ALREADY WAS A LARGE PRODUCER OF GUAYULE BY COMPANIES FROM THE US AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN EARLIER YEARS.

19. QUOTE: TO COMPLEMENT THE PROPOSAL OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE, NON-PROFIT 'PATRONAGE' HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED OF ILLUSTRIOUS PERSONS WHO HAVE A GREAT DESIRE TO COOPERATE WITH THE STATE AND ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE DESERT ZONES, SO AS TO ALSO AVOID THE EXODUS OF WORKERS AND IMPROVE THE ECOLOGY IN ALL THE COUNTRY OF THIS ZACATECAN REGION.

20. QUOTE: WE ARE COLLECTING MORE TECHNICAL INFORMATION, STATISTICS, AND HISTORY OF THIS ZONE, WHICH WE WILL SEND YOU LATER.

21. QUOTE: WITH THE ENORMOUS APPRECIATION OF THE GOVERNOR FOR YOUR ATTENTION, SINCERELY, ...UNQUOTE.

22. S&T COUNSELOR IS HAND CARRYING TO LONG COPIES OF A CONAZA REPORT AND THE STATE LEGISLATION. HE IS SENDING AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO PADILLA INDICATING THAT HE IS FORWARDING INFORMATION ON THE STATE PLANS TO WASHINGTON.

23. COMMENT: THIS APPEAR TO BE A SERIOUS EFFORT WHICH WE SHOULD REPLY TO IN AS POSITIVE A WAY AS POSSIBLE.

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24. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE REACTIONS
FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE TO THIS
INITIATIVE. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE IDENTIFICATION OF
APPROPRIATE EXPERTS WHO MIGHT MEET WITH THIS GROUP TO
EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND EXPLORE METHODS OF COOPERATION.
DRAFTED BY RHWILCOX. LUCEY

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